

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 16969 252035Z

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7140

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16969

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: WALK-IN AT SPASO HOUSE

1. TELEPHONE CALL LATE AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 25 FROM SPASO HOUSE INDICATED THAT YOUNG SOVIET HAD RUN PAST MILITIA GUARDS TO GAIN ENTRANCE TO RESIDENCE. AMBASSADOR'S AIDE AND CONSOFF WENT TO SPASO TO INTERVIEW WALK-IN. HE WAS YOUNG, ARTISTICALLY-ORIENTED SOVIET FROM DONBAS REGION, VLADIMIR BORISOVICH CHERKASOV, JOB 1 SEPTEMBER 1951. CHERKASOV SAID HE WANTED TO LEAVE USSR. HE SAID HE HAD NO RELATIVES ABROAD FROM WHOM TO RECEIVE VYZOV; ALTHOUGH MEMBERS OF FAMILY HAD LIVED ABROAD THEY HAD RETURNED TO THE USSR DURING THE 30'S. HE SAID MANY FAMILY MEMBERS HAD BEEN KILLED IN THE 30'S.

2. CHERKASOV WAS AN ARMY VETERAN AND INDICATED THAT AFTER BEING DISCHARGED HE HAD BEEN IN AND OUT OF WORK. AT HIS LAST PLACE OF WORK, SOMEONE HAD WRITTEN A LETTER ABOUT HIM AND HE HAD BEEN SENT TO A MENTAL INSTITUTION FOR BOUT 22 DAYS. HE HAD BEEN DISCHARGED, BUT HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET WORK SINCE THEN (SOMETIME IN SEPTEMBER) AND SAID HE FEARED BEING READMITTED. HE SAID THAT MANY PEOPLE IN THE INSTITUTION TO WHICH HE HAD BEEN ADMITTED HAD BEEN THERE 7 OR 8 YEARS.

3. HE SEEMED RESIGNED WHEN CONSOFF EXPLAINED THAT EMBASSY COULD NOT HELP HIM LEAVE THE USSR UNLESS HE HAD EXIT PERMISSION,
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 16969 252035Z

FOR WHICH HE WOULD NEED A VYZOV FROM ABROAD. HE SAID HE

REALLY HADN'T EXPECTED THAT WE COULD HELP, BUT HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN. MANY PEOPLE HAD FLED FROM THE ARMY, HE SAID, BUT THEY HAD ALL BEEN CAUGHT AND BROUGHT BACK. TO CROSS THE BORDER ILLEGALLY TOOK KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS HE DID NOT POSSESS. HE HAD THOUGHT OF ATTEMPTING TO CROSS THE BORDER OF TURKMENISTAN, WHERE HE KNEW A LOT OF SMUGGLING WAS GOING ON, BUT THE PEOPLE THERE WERE MOSLEMS AND HE DID NOT SPEAK THEIR LANGUAGE.

4. CHERKASOV SEEMED INTERESTED IN METROPOLITAN WORKS HANGING IN SPASO AND IN SOVIET POETRY. HE RECITED PART OF "THE HEAD OF HADJI MURAT" AND TALKED OF YEVTUSHENKO'S TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS. HE MADE NO OBJECTION TO BEING ESCORTED ON FOOT FROM SPASO TO NEAREST METRO STATION.

5. CHERKASOV AND ESCORTS WERE FOLLOWED BY PLAINCLOTHESMAN WHO WAS WAITING OUTSIDE SPASO AND WHO FOLLOWED CHERKASOV WHEN HE CONTINUED ALONE.
MATLOCK

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